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The stories of detainees at prisons like Guantanamo Bay show the extent of the paranoia after the outrageous attacks on the twin towers in New York. It seems that the same fear and suspicion works behind detentions of people like Khan.

Having said that, Indian information and broadcasting minister Ambika Soni's call for a tit-for-tat solution is immature and ill-thought-out. It may be better if the India uses diplomatic channels -- as it has done -- to make the Indian government's disapproval of this kind of racial profiling clear.

Khan himself has also had a fairly muted reaction to the events, although he has made his discomfiture known. It is ironical however that he should be targeted for being a Muslim in the US at the same time that the **US Commission on International Religious Freedom** has placed India on a watch list for its treatments of religious minorities, particularly Christians and Muslims.